

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /095 W

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R 191747Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6242

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USEC BRUSSELS 651

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4055

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, FR, US

SUBJECT: BASQUE SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE -
TRIAL OF THE CARABANCHEL TEN

1. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION, EMBOFF ASKED FRENCH AMBASSADOR ABOUT FRENCH-SPANISH COOPERATION IN CONTROLLING BASQUE SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES. FRENCH AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT SUCH COOPERATION EXTENDED TO FRENCH CONTROL OF BASQUE SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES IN FRENCH AREAS BORDERING SPAIN AND FORCING BASQUES WHO WERE CONSPICUOUSLY ACTIVE IN SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS TO MOVE TO OTHER PART OF FRANCE.

2. ASKED WHAT FRENCH POLICY WAS RE RETURNING TO SPAIN BASQUE TERRORISTS CHARGED WITH ATTACKS IN SPAIN, FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID THIS WAS A VERY DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEM. IN ORDER FOR THE FRENCH EVEN TO CONSIDER SUCH ACTION THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE EVIDENCE OF GUILT OF THE ACCUSED BASQUE TERRORIST AND THUS FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO CASES IN WHICH THE SPANISH HAD BEEN ABLE TO PRESENT SUCH EVIDENCE. MOREOVER EVEN IF SUCH EVIDENCE WAS SUBMITTED, IT WAS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY FEASIBLE FOR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO RETURN THE BASQUE TERRORISTS TO SPAIN SINCE SUCH ACTION WOULD
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CREATE A FUROR IN FRANCE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE FORTHCOMING TRIAL OF THE CARABANCHEL TEN IN SPAIN, NOTING THAT THIS TRIAL AND THE EXPECTED HEAVY SENTENCES ON THE ACCUSED WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MAKING EVEN MORE DIFFICULT SPAIN-EC NEGOTIATIONS. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE U.S. TAD SAID ZNJFMHING TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS MATTER OR INTENDED TO DO SO. THE EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE U.S. FOLLOWED A PRACTICE OF NOT INTERVENING IN SUCH INTERNAL MATTERS. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT RAISE THE MATTER AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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